

## Hopkinton Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes  
November 25, 2008

***(These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next committee meeting)***

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM at the Slusser Senior Center.

Members in attendance: Louise Carr, Mark Newton, Valerie Carr, Jim Martin, Jessica Shimen and Recreation Director Justin La Vigne. The guest attendees were Patrice La Vigne, Merle Dustin and Ann Wayland.

Approval of 10/28/08 Recreation Committee minutes:

The minutes from 10/28/08 were approved.

### **Business:**

Justin said he really wanted to hold off on voting for the Recreation Committee officers (Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and Secretary) until all the committee members are present at a meeting and with 2 members not present, the committee should still hold off on the official decision, but there was discussion. Louise, who has been the Chairperson, noted the importance of official positions. As chairperson, she has tried to support the director by attending Selectmen meetings, as a recreation advocate, but also to provide history. She actually said that all committee members should attend the Selectmen meetings when Recreation is on the agenda, or read the minutes, just so everyone stays in the loop with recreation. But the chairperson can also take a more active role, depending on what Justin needs. She said she is fully willing to remain in position, unless someone has a true interest. The committee agreed that Louise is the best choice because of many reasons. There is no co-chairperson or secretary right now. The committee noted that Vernon would be a good choice for co-chair, but still need to ask him. The secretary is important to take the meeting notes and Anne expressed interest in doing that. There was also a motion to add Anne to the committee and the motion was approved by all members. In addition to the positions, there can be more done to improve the committee structure, such as assigning members special interest positions. Justin said ideally he wants the committee to provide program support and be the voice in the community. The committee agreed that the committee should hold a separate brainstorming meeting to decide the direction of the department and set goals for 2009. Jessica suggested that at this meeting, the committee inventory all the programs. It seems there are seasonal traditions that takes place year after year, but there are opportunities to fill in the gaps around these bigger events. Justin will look into some dates in January.

The committee talked about the recent Selectmen "eyes only" email and how it shows that there is always a need for better education on the Recreation Department. If negative talk is going to circulate regarding the department, it is the committee's job to spread the good information on recreation. Town meeting will be a perfect opportunity to have a recreation "booth" or some sort of display of the programs. Town meeting is likely to bring up a number of recreation items. The recreation budget being presented to the budget committee has a 6 percent decrease. There will probably be a warrant item regarding what to do about Columbia Hall. Also, on Dec. 22, Justin will be presenting his senior center rental agreement and rules and regulations to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee voted to cancel its regular meeting in December and will have the brainstorming meeting in January, as well as the regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

**Update on Past/Ongoing/Upcoming Programs:**

*Starry Starry Weekend* - Dec. 5-7. This is a town-wide event and the Recreation Department is not participating this year, but plans to in the future. Justin went to the planning meeting for it, and will just provide recreation information to hand out during the event.

*Holiday Lights Contest* – This is the same event the Recreation Department sponsored last year where households in town sign up their houses to be judged on decorating—in any theme—for the holiday. Last year, there were 13 houses judged. The judging will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6-9pm and Thurs., Dec 11 if needed.

Recreation Committee members who will be judging will meet at the Senior Center.

*Breakfast with Santa* – Saturday, Dec. 13. Same event as in the past years, but this year it will take place not at Columbia Hall, but the Senior Center. The cost is \$3 per person and the proceeds will benefit Operation Christmas through the Human Services Department. Last year, there were 150 people. Justin will set up on Friday, Dec. 12. Vernon will be Santa again. There was some discussion about where to do the crafts and they may take place downstairs. Santa will probably be stationed in the main room instead of the dining area because of space limitations in the eating area. Volunteers should arrive at 6am on Saturday and the food will be buffet style again. The event usually wraps up around 10:30am.

*Ginger Bread Making Workshop* – Sunday, Dec. 14. Volunteer Liz Durant is heading up the workshop. Children, accompanied by adults, will be given gingerbread houses to create. The event will take place from 1-3pm at the Grange Hall. It costs \$12 per house.

*Santa Calling* – Thursday, Dec. 18. This is a new event for the town that Justin is trying. There are over 250 kids aged 3 to 8 years in town and this is the target population. Parents/guardians sign up their children ahead of time (forms available in the library, online, Senior Center, etc.). Then, on Thursday, committee members will call the kids and talk about certain things on the forms (child's school, gift wish list), so they really feel like they are getting called by Santa. It doesn't take long to talk to each child and Justin expects the event to start at 6pm and wrap up by 8:30pm. Will use all the landlines in the Senior Center.

*Disney on Ice* – Saturday, Jan. 24. Justin bought discount tickets in bulk and will sell them to townspeople. The show is at 3pm and the tickets cost \$23. Justin has 20 tickets available.

*Boston Celtics Tickets* - Justin is looking into getting these and thinking about coordinating a trip with Bow and New London recreation, as Mark mentioned the community's interest in it at the last meeting.

Justin also mentioned he is planning a ski trip during the kids' school break in February. The trip is in conjunction with Stratum Recreation Department.

**Other Business:**

Justin said he went to an exhibition last week showing all performers in action. A particular juggler caught his attention and he thought it would be a great addition for the Fourth of July Celebration. He figured the juggler could do a 30-40-minute showcase at the beginning of the event, then mix and mingle with attendants throughout the day and maybe end with another show. The committee agreed it was a good idea and Justin said he would book him.

Louise reminded Justin to post the meeting minutes within 5 business days. And also to post the committee meeting on the town calendar and Justin said he will follow up with those.

We are adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin La Vigne